

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

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Near the headwaters of the Schuylkill River last week where we could find woody cover, we found wild ST. We have found a few here and there over the past decade, perhaps 10-15 at the most in 300 meters , but this was the first time that 50 were captured in 300 meters of electrofishing. What has changed since then? 1. No more raw sewage from the towns...now there is a sewage treatment plant. 2. Acid mine/metals abatement via a 2 yr old treatment system on Silver Creek. In substantial stretch the limiting factor no longer seems to be water quality. Now it is a lack of overhead cover in some areas, which is particularly problematic when combined with low summer flow, and excessive past mining related sediment in other areas.

As for the stretch from Schuylkill Haven to Pottsville, there is a fishable population comprised of fingerling stocked rainbow trout and brown trout, as well as wild browns and wild brooks. Fish are scattered with stretches of nearly trout-free water followed by better stretches with good numbers of fish.